

Zusammenfassung

Untersucht wird in einer Laubwaldgemeinschaft im Fruška-Gora-Massiv der Aktionsraum der Gelbhalsmaus, *Apodemus flavicollis*. ♂♂ haben einen größeren Aktionsraum als ♀♀. Auch nach längerer Beobachtungszeit wird eine gewisse Maximalgröße (50 m im Durchmesser) nur selten überschritten.

Summary

Comparative analyses of the home range of the species *Apodemus flavicollis* obtained by means of the successive points of capture of the marked animals in shorter (48 h) and longer (several months) intervals of recapture the absence of the marked animals around the trapping area, the observed movements immediately after the release as well as the figure of their tracks on the snow surface, on the other side, lead to the conclusion that the obtained result represents the real picture of the size of the home range and movements of this species in the studied community *Querceto-carpinetum serbicum aculeatetosum*. The maximal diameter of the home range only exceptionally, after several months of capture, exceeds the size of 50 m, but usually it is smaller.

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Sight records of Cetacea belonging to the genus *Mesoplodon* Gervais, 1850

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Eingang des Ms. 23. 10. 1967

Crossing the Atlantic Ocean on the greatcircle track from the English Channel to Mona Passage in the West Indies, a series of remarkable sightings of whales of the genus *Mesoplodon* were made before and after passing the Azores Islands, during August 1967. The weather was fine and clear, no wind; the sea except for a low North-westerly swell as flat as a mirror, the water cristal clear.

All observations were of pairs, the animals swimming about 20 feet apart, one slightly in front of the other. Their progress was along the surface with shallow dives and at a regular pace as if migrating; speed estimated between 3 and 4 knots. Course was between S and SSE and by coincidence the ship's course of SWbW intercepted these whales each time at close quarters, as near as 200 to 300 yards for some of them.

None took any avoiding action until abeam of the ship (which is common for all bigger whales). They showed themselves well. Coming up to blow the beak and the head broke the surface, leaving the chin (where the grooves are) in the water. After the head submerged again, the whole round smooth back came well above the surface without excessive arching, followed by the small dorsal fin and part of the sharp edged tail stock. The flukes did not break surface at any time, but could be seen under water. When abreast of the ship, they sounded and were not seen anymore.

Date	Position	Specimens	Further data
29. VIII. 1967	43° 6' N, 28° 2' W	2 or 3	Seawater temp.
29. VIII. 1967	43° 3' N, 28° 8' W	2	19.5° C; these positions are near Chaucer Bank
29. VIII. 1967	42° 7' N, 30° 0' W	2	Seawater temp.
30. VIII. 1967	38° 3' N, 38° 6' W	2	23° C
30. VIII. 1967	37° 8' N, 39° 9' W	2	
30. VIII. 1967	37° 5' N, 40° 2' W	2	

With a pair of powerful glasses the animals could be studied carefully. The colour was very dark black — brown to grey brown. No scars or discolourations were visible, except on the big stout beak, round the tip and the crest of the lower jaw. The length of the whales was estimated at about 15 to 18 feet.

In view of the great difficulties in identifying stranded specimens of the genus and even in identifying museum material (see the publications of MOORE, e. g. his paper of 1966), the author does not venture naming the animals encountered. Very provisionally, in view of the larger size, the shape of the beak and the colours, they can be referred to the species *Mesoplodon densirostris* (de Blainville, 1817). But again, this is not an identification, as too little is known about the external features of *Mesoplodon* species to identify them at sea.

Rather remarkable is the fact the animals were seen in pairs. At least three strandings of pairs (all females) of *Mesoplodon bidens* (Sowerby, 1804) are known from European coasts; once in Norway (JONGGÅRD and HOIDAL, 1957) and twice in the Netherlands, and well on 16. VII. 1947 on the Island of Texel and on 10./11. VII. 1952 near Castricum. Swimming in pairs seems to be normal for members of the genus.

The above mentioned sight records of specimens of the genus *Mesoplodon* are not the first ones for the author. On 29. VII. 1966 three specimens were seen off Lobito (12° 4' S, 12° 2' E); seawater temperature 18° Centigrade.

References

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